(e) The average cost of energy of thermal power stations sold to various SEBs is Rs 1.49 per unit. The difference of the average cost of energy per unit in respect of aforementioned power plants in comparison to the average cost of thermal power varies from Rs.0.77 per unit to Rs. 6.21 per unit.

**Cases pending with CERC**

4212. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power situation in the country is critical and many cases are pending with the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for which the positions of Chairman and Members of CERC are being allowed to be vacant?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) At the all India level, energy shortage and peaking shortage were 9.6% and 13.8% respectively in the year 2006-07. The National Electricity Policy aims at overcoming these shortages by the year 2012.

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has informed that since it's inception, the Commission has received a total of 1069 petitions (including *suo-motu* proceedings). 108 petitions are pending as on date. As further informed by CERC, none of the pending petitions have in any way contributed to the present power crisis in the country.

(c) As per provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003, Chairperson and Members of the CERC are required to be appointed by Central Government on the recommendation of the Selection Committee laid down in the Act. There are two vacant posts in CERC, one of Member and another of Chairperson which has fallen vacant recently. Approval of the competent authority has been sought on the proposal for making appointment of the Member. For the post of Chairperson, reference has been made to the Selection Committee whose recommendation is awaited.